

Virginia Citizen.

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NUMBER 4

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THE CREAM OF THE NEWS.
That's what readers get in the
VIRGINIA CITIZEN
Local, County, State, National and
Foreign—all simmered down.

NORTHERN NECK OF VIRGINIA.

Interesting History of This Section
From the Early English Settlers
Down to Present.

TOLD BY DIFFERENT WRITERS.

(By Dr. James P. Smith, in The Presbyterian of the South.)

At the far eastern end of the Northern Neck are the two old counties of Lancaster, 1652, and Northumberland, 1648. All about them are great waters; the Potomac on the north, the Rappahannock on the south, with a long, much indented shore on the Chesapeake. Steamboats and sails go to and fro on the waters, and no scream of locomotive is to be heard for hundreds of miles. They are a gentle and happy folk, who gladly dwell among their own people, and the mails come, with papers from Richmond and Baltimore, not too frequently to disturb their peace. Here were the homes of the earliest English settlers, who came across the seas to make their primitive state with English names, to clear the forest and plant tobacco and live in self-respect and simplicity, riding, fishing, hunting as well as tilling the new fields, and visiting each other for days and weeks at a time. Here were the first seats of the sires of great families; King Carter, who lived and ruled his domain in lower Lancaster like a king. Lees and Harrisons, Balls and Churchills, Seldens and Madisons and others just as well bred and as worthy. The blood of five or six American presidents, beginning with the Country's Father, came from these old plantations. Their descendants are the people of today, with scarcely any mixture in the strain.

In the courthouses are the county portrait galleries, thanks very much to Judge T. R. B. Wright; the walls are covered with the pictures of the worthies of past generations, governors, senators, judges, statesmen, soldiers, jurists, who lived in these old homesteads and went out to council and congress, and pulpit and battlefield. And the county records are unbroken from the beginning in the seventeenth century, keeping the history complete, not only of lands and deeds and wills, but of marriages and deaths, of doings good and bad.

Last week we went ashore from the Rappahannock steamboat, twenty-four hours from Fredericksburg, at Merry Point in the Corrotoman river. It may have been called Ferry Point, for a ferry-boat will take you over to the landing of King Carter, where he ruled in State and Church with a strong hand. There is old Christ Church, most venerable, long strangely neglected and dismantled, and now somewhat restored for at least an occasional service. With the escort of an intelligent friend, a drive of two or three miles brought us to "Verrville," "the great house" of one of the earliest plantations, built no one knows when by a Madison at least fifty years before the Revolution, and for thirty years the home of Col. James Gordon. It is a long, brick mansion, with spreading wings, and the second story has great dormer windows. It is on an elevation, and looks to the east, far over the fields and low-grounds across the Corrotoman river.

A mile or two away, in the midst of the forest and overgrown with vines and undergrowth are the mounds that mark the line of the Presbyterian church built by Colonel Gordon, of which in his early ministry the Rev. James Waddell was the pastor. Large congregations assembled to hear the eloquent young preacher. At one communion service there were 115 white and 85 negro communicants. Here Samuel Davies, of Hanover, preached, and John Todd, of Louisa. And here George Whitfield preached to crowds more than the house could hold. There were two other churches, one called the Forest Church and one in Northumberland. The Gospel was ably and earnestly preached, and for years evangelical religion bore its fruit throughout these counties. When Mr. Waddell removed from Lancaster because of impaired health, and then the strong pillar of the church, Col. Gordon died, there was no supply, and in a few years these churches became extinct.

James Gordon, of "Verrville," Lancaster County, was a remarkable man, a Scotch-Irish merchant, and planter, a gentleman of wealth and social culture, and a devout and active Christian man, a ruling elder of the Presbyterian church. He kept a journal of his daily life, much of which is still extant in manuscript copies among his descendants, and some of which has been printed in Foot's Sketches, and later in the William and Mary College Magazine. He was born at Newry, County Down, Ireland, and came to Virginia in 1738, about twenty-four years of age. With him was his younger brother, John, who settled at Urbana, in Middlesex. Both of them were the ancestors of Gordon families, with wide connections and most honorable service to State and Church.

The Journal of Col. Gordon is most interesting reading. It shows a Christian man of earnest piety, intelligent, zealous and faithful. He was the head of a Christian household, instructing his children and servants in Gospel truth, earnestly striving to lead them and his friends and neighbors to a saving knowledge of Christ. It is a picture of conditions and social life in colonial times; the generous hospitality, business relations with the old country, the uncertain coming and going of sailing vessels to Liverpool, the Bahamas and Antigua, the purchase of negroes from the Guinea Coast of Africa, and a Christian master's instructions and

authority, many of his servants being communicants of his church. He bought and sold rum, and distilled liquors, and punished white and black severely for drunkenness. He died in Christian hope, universally esteemed in his section and honored and loved by his family, on January 2, 1788, fifty-four years of age.

In the court-house of Lancaster County are many portraits of men of distinction of the earliest Colonial times. These county galleries are beyond estimate in value, historical, educational and inspiring through generations to come. In the midst of the Lancaster collection, beginning with Col. Robert Carter, or old King Carter, and Mary Ball, mother of Washington, is a tablet of fine marble, four feet high and two feet eight inches wide, with lettering in black and gold, to the memory of the Presbyterian minister, James Waddell, who wrote his name indelibly on the religious history of this county and of Virginia. It was presented to the county in 1905 by Captain George P. Squires, a native of New York and a resident of this county for some years, and bears the following inscription:

IN MEMORIAM.
REV. JAMES WADDELL, D. D.,
The Blind Preacher, leader, and Orator.

Son of Thomas and Janet Waddell, of the County Down, Ireland. Born on the Atlantic Ocean in 1739, when his parents emigrated to America; died in Louisa Co., Va., Sept. 17th, 1805. Licensed as a probationer April 2nd, 1761, by the old Presbytery of Hanover. Resided on Corrotoman River, Lancaster Co., Va., in 1762, and had three preaching places; viz: Lancaster C. H., the Forest Meetinghouse, and the Northumberland Meetinghouse.

In 1768 married Mary Gordon, daughter of Col. James Gordon, of Lancaster Co., an elder in the church, a member of the court, and the maternal grandfather of General William F. Gordon of Albemarle.

Taught Meriwether Lewis and Gov. James Barbour. Was at one time minister of Tinkling Spring Church, in Augusta Co., Va., and a patriot in the Revolution; addressed Tate's company at Midway, Rockbridge Co., Va.

Immortalized in Wirt's British Spy, when in a sermon of thrilling oratory and magic eloquence on the passion of our Saviour, he electrified his hearers by the beautiful and sublime quotations from Rousseau: "Socrates died like a philosopher, but Jesus Christ like a God."

Some scattered Presbyterians there must have been in all the counties of the Northern Neck from a very early Colonial time, probably Scotch and Scotch-Irish coming through Jersey and Delaware. In 1757 and 1758 Hanover Presbytery received petitions for the visits and services of ministers from the counties of Westmoreland, Richmond, Lancaster and Northumberland. The Rev. Samuel Davies, then in Hanover, received earnest appeals from Richmond County, and in 1757 urgent requests for ministerial service came to the Presbytery from Lancaster and Northumberland. Mr. Davies, Mr. Todd and others were appointed to visit these counties and administer the sacrament. That portion of the Journal of Col. James Gordon which survives in manuscript copies begins in 1758, and early in January of 1759, tells of the building of "the Meeting House," the opposition of "the parsons," and the visit and preaching of Samuel Davies and John Todd in the March following. After a long time of waiting Col. Gordon and his family and friends had the joy of hearing the Word preached and of sitting at the table of the Lord's Supper.

By the commendation of Mr. Davies, the company of Presbyterian dissenters in Lancaster invited a young man, James Waddell, then teaching in Louisa County, to come to Lancaster as their minister. Born at sea, when his parents were coming from Ulster to America, in his boyhood he was a student in the Log College of Dr. Finley at Nottingham. At nineteen he set out on a long journey to South Carolina, proposing to settle in Charleston as a teacher.

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Coming to Lancaster at twenty-three years of age, he found hospitality, intelligence and piety in an attractive circle of Gordons, Seldens, Chichesters and others, and at once attracted congregations from all the country around. Col. Gordon's Journal says: April 18, 1762, "May the Lord be praised, I at last have had the comfort of going with my wife and family to meeting where Mr. Waddell performed to admiration." He went about his ministry in two counties with fidelity and earnestness, preaching to whites and to negroes, teaching and examining or catechizing and gathering many into his three churches. Four years after he came to Lancaster, in 1766, he married Mary Gordon, daughter of his elder, Col. James Gordon. Sickness prevailed in all this section at that time, and Mr. Waddell's health became seriously impaired. After fourteen years of fruitful work in Lancaster he was removed to Augusta County and was for a time the pastor of the Tinkling Spring and Staunton churches.

He lived at a place called Spring Hill, on the Shenandoah river, a few miles above Waynesborough, and this was his home for seven years. This was during the troubled times of the American Revolution. When the volunteer patriots of Augusta mustered at Midway, or Steele's Tavern, Mr. Waddell preached a memorable sermon, which was ringing in their ears at King's Mountain and Guilford Courthouse. In 1785 Mr. Waddell removed to a place called Belle Grove, in the western end of Louisa County. Branches of the Gordon family, kinsmen of his wife, had settled nearby, and Gordonsville became the centre of a section that needed a church and a minister. Mr. Waddell preached at Hopewell Church, near Gordonsville, at the D. S. Church, five miles west of Charlottesville, and at the Brick Church, near Orange Courthouse. As his years passed he grew blind, and he grew also more fervid and eloquent in the pulpit. In September, 1805, sixty-six years of age, from a serene old age, out of a ministry bearing fruit to the end, he passed through the veil.

It was at the Hopewell Church that the brilliant Attorney General of Virginia, William Wirt, heard the sermon on the Crucifixion. And in a series of letters called "The British Spy," contributed to a Richmond paper, published his remarkable description of the eloquent, blind preacher, who was seeing with an inner and a clearer vision the death and the love of the Divine Redeemer.

After the removal of Dr. Waddell from Lancaster, the Revolution brought changes among the people. The Presbyterian Colonies in this county and in Northumberland were much broken up by removal of the strong leaders, and no minister could be brought or sustained if they could be brought. Thirty years after a Presbyterian missionary came to find the meeting houses neglected and dismantled and the flocks scattered. The descendants of the two brothers, James Gordon, of Lancaster, and John Gordon, of Middlesex, have not forsaken the faith of their fathers, and have gone far and wide, setting up tents where they have pitched their tents.

Some years ago Dr. W. A. Campbell did faithful work in the Northern Neck, bearing fruit in churches at Weems and at Sharpsburg on the Rappahannock side of old Lancaster and Richmond, keeping the flame alive on Presbyterian altars. But in these counties there is probably not now the material or the need for any attempt to rebuild the old churches. Evangelical religion is there in many churches of other names, and its fruits are seen in order and morals and piety, and we doubt not in a good and catholic spirit of love. On our last visit to this attractive county, a gentleman said: "The Presbyterian Church is not here now, but it left a good memory, and James Waddell is still a living force!"

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY.

(Heathsville Cor. in The Richmond Virginian.)

Northumberland county, lying between the Rappahannock and Potomac rivers, in the Northern Neck of Virginia, its banks being washed by the waters of the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay, is conceded to be the wealthiest county on the Peninsula. All that strip of land lying between the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers originally bore the name of Northumberland, in honor of the Earl of Northumberland. This land is now known as the Northern Neck of Virginia and is composed of five counties—Northumberland, Westmoreland, Lancaster, Richmond and King George.

Northumberland is blessed with a natural location and a fountain of resources which pour into the coffers of its citizens an enviable wealth. In no rural section of the State has there been greater progress along industrial lines in the last decade than has been made in this favored section. Signs of thrift and advancement can be seen on every hand. Farm lands have about doubled in value, and the farmers are more scientific in their methods of farming. The scarcity of farm laborers has made it necessary for the farmers to use the most improved and economical machinery on their farms, and this unavoidable condition has placed farming upon a more profitable basis, as the farm managers give the work their own personal attention.

Farmers Are Prosperous.
Farming in Northumberland county is no longer a drudgery. The tillers of the soil are an intelligent, prosperous and contented people. Having access to the daily, weekly and monthly newspapers, they are in touch with current events and national affairs, and they are acquiring information that is making them more and more prosperous every year.

But "trucking" in recent years has become the most profitable branch of farming in the county, particularly in the Coan and Yeocomico river sections, where the soil seems especially adapted to the prolific growth of tomatoes, cantaloupes, etc. The tomato crop is the greatest source of profit to the trucker, however. The seeds are sown in hotbeds, under glass, in late winter, and these beds are watched most carefully, transplanted and tended until the season of frost is past, when they are "set out" in the fields. The crop requires much attention and there is no "let-up" to the trucker until the crop is marketed. It is a matter of impossibility to estimate the number of crates of the fruits shipped from Coan and Yeocomico rivers during the early tomato season, which lasts until about July 1, when the local canneries begin work. The receipts from the crop in this immediate section amounted to thousands of dollars. The canneries utilize all of the late crop, closing about the first of October. These factories are located

throughout the county and their packs go principally to Baltimore.

Fish Industry Pays.

The chief source of revenue to the people of Northumberland and decidedly the most profitable is the great fish and oyster industries which extend directly or indirectly to the remotest parts of the county. The Potomac river, Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean are the "gold mines" of Northumberland, and from these waters is brought the wealth of the people. Trap and menhaden fishing engage more men than the oyster industry, though the latter is carried on mainly in the fall and winter.

Reedville, in the lower end of the county, is the center of the fishing industry. During the menhaden fishing season a large fleet maintained at an expense of several thousand dollars a day, goes out from Reedville daily in search of menhaden, usually returning in the evening loaded to the many factories situated at Reedville and other points on the Great Wicomico river. The menhaden are made into manipulated and acidulated guanos and fish oils and shipped to outside markets. Until a few years ago the fishing fleet was mainly composed of sail craft, but these have been replaced by steamers. The factories utilizing the fish are fitted up with the most costly and modern machinery. The employees of the factories command good wages, and it is said that the captain of one of the steamers will receive a salary of \$10,000 next season. The minor employees are paid \$30 per month and upward.

Prosperity is General.

Along with the farming and oyster industries, this industry is developing the county financially, and there is a general prosperity abroad throughout this entire section. Along every other line—social, morally and educationally—there is marked advancement, but the material development of the county is advanced by strides and bounds; yet with these natural resources and the spirit of progress on every hand there is one thing lacking in the rapid development of this section—the building of a railroad through the Northern Neck. Recently a railroad proposition has been made to the citizens of the Neck, meetings have been held in the interest of the proposed road, and the whole matter is in the hands of appointed committees, who are now at work on the proposition. Should the plan materialize and the road be built, capital would come in, manufactures be established, and Northumberland would enjoy a prosperity unknown to other less favored sections of Virginia.

Aside from her commercial activity, Northumberland shows civic improvement and educational advancement. The large number of high schools in the county are second to none in rural districts, the teachers in these schools being specialists in their line and the best instruction is given. New and handsome homes are taking the place of old structures, thus fostering a spirit of public improvement.

The statements of the banking institutions in the county show a large increase in the financial earnings of the people generally. Among the more progressive river ports are Lewisetta, Walnut Point, Coan, Cowart, Bundick and Lake, on Coan river; Reedville, Fleeton and Fairport, on Great Wicomico river; and Lodge and Mundy Point, on Yeocomico river. Heathsville (the county seat), Lottsburg, Callao, Rainwood and Miskimon are among the growing inland towns.

CAPT. WM. T. CHASE.

(Written by Warner Ball, Esq., and read by F. G. Newhall at the unveiling of Capt. Chase's portrait September 20, 1910, at Lancaster Courthouse.)
May it please the Hon. Court, Ladies, and Fellow Citizens:

Sometimes there is a joy in sadness. While we miss Capt. Wm. T. Chase and his friendly greeting, it is a pleasure to pay a tribute to the memory of one of our best, noblest and bravest. And while his children can rejoice in the love of an honored father, Lancaster is proud of his record as soldier and citizen. William Tell Chase enlisted from Lancaster Co., Va. April 3rd, 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate States' service at White Marsh, Va., as 1st Lieutenant of Company C, 40th Regiment Virginia Volunteer Infantry, under Capt. Wm. Henderson and Col. Jno. M. Brockenbrough, to serve during the war. The Regiment was assigned to Field's brigade, A. P. Hill's division, Jackson's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia, and participated in the following engagements: Warrenton Springs, Fredericksburg, Seven days' fight around Richmond, Gettysburg, Spotsylvania C. H., Cold Harbor and other engagements. Promoted to Captain May 22, 1862. Wounded at Cold Harbor [CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE.]

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2nd size Hyacinths	5c	40c	2.75
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Why try this thing, that thing, for your constipation? Why not stick to the good old reliable family laxative—Ayer's Pills? Ask your doctor if he approves this advice.